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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, by which the Security Council created the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and authorized the deployment of United Nations military observers to Freetown.

In paragraph 9 of that resolution, the Council welcomed my intention to establish security arrangements for United Nations personnel with the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to conclude a status of mission agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone.

By paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Council decided that the UNOMSIL military observers should be deployed when I informed the Council that security arrangements and the status of mission agreement had been concluded.

I am pleased to inform you that I wrote to President Kabbah on 29 July 1998 to state the terms of the status of mission agreement and that, on the same day, the Government of Sierra Leone replied, stating its acceptance of the agreement. I have also written to the Chairman of ECOWAS proposing the activities to be undertaken by UNOMSIL and the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) in accordance with the programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into society of Sierra Leonean former combatants adopted by the Government of Sierra Leone. In that letter, I drew his attention to the provision in the Government's plan that ECOMOG would have overall responsibility for security throughout disarmament and demobilization operations.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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